

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO. 45

NOVEMBER 1985

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1985

ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL PARADE
11.30AM SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER
START: CECIL STREET, ELTHAM

TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY
2PM SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER
OUTSIDE ELTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
CORNER OF MAIN ROAD & PITT STREET

NOVEMBER MEETING
8PM WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER
SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE
OFF MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)
DISCUSSION EVENING: LOCAL PERSONALITIES

PORTSEA BUS TRIP
8.30AM SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER
LEAVES FROM ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP
6 PM WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER
SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE
BRING A PLATE TO SHARE

MORE DETAILS ON FOLLOWING PAGES

There is an extensive list of Society activities between now and Christmas. This Newsletter has been prepared earlier than usual to give adequate notice to members. The activities are listed above in order of occurrence and are explained in further detail below.

ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL:

As usual, the Society is participating in the Festival Parade. We will have a float to ride on or walk beside. Members of the Victorian Folk Music Club are again going to join us. The Parade starts at 12 noon. Members should assemble in Cecil Street at about 11.30 dressed in appropriate period costume. A number of members who regularly participate in the Parade find it a most enjoyable activity and they will, no doubt, be there again this year. We would particularly encourage new members to come and join in this fun event.

Assistance is required on Friday, 8th November, for setting up our float. If you can assist please contact Russell Yeoman.

TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY:

Our 150th Anniversary Monument is now under construction in the gardens in front of the Eltham Community Centre. Further details of the project are given under a separate heading below and this item deals with the proposed ceremony.

We propose to formally lower the time capsule into its container underneath the monument as part of the Eltham Community Festival. All members are invited to attend the ceremony at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday, 10th November. Come earlier with a picnic lunch if you like. Local people and firms who have contributed money or services for the monument will also be invited. As part of the Festival programme the public are welcome to attend.

This is one of the most significant projects the Society has undertaken and members' participation in its finalization would be most gratifying to the organizing committee.

NOVEMBER MEETING:

The recent Society records workshops have been largely devoted to compiling available information into an alphabetical record of local personalities ranging from pioneer settlers to present day identities. These records have provided inspiration for the subject matter of this discussion evening.

The records provide enough material for many discussion evenings but they will be available more to answer questions or to deal with situations where members don't know who to talk about next. Information available deals with the better known early settlers such as Thomas Sweeney, George Porter and Henry Dendy, lesser known settlers and prominent local residents. This latter category includes information on such people as artist Walter Withers, anthropologist Dr. Donald Thomson, cartoonist Percy Leason and author Alan Marshall.

The main thrust of a discussion evening is to enable members to discuss matters that interest them most. You should come to this meeting prepared to discuss local personalities that you have information about or, at least, to ask questions about those you would like to know about. Bring along any notes, newspaper cuttings, etc., you may have on interesting local people.

We also hope to show a short video film produced by the Shire of Eltham in support of its stand against amalgamation with the Shire of Diamond Valley.

PORTSEA BUS TRIP:

This trip has been changed to 1st December from the previously advertised date of 24th November. We will be leaving from the front of the Eltham Shire Offices at 8.30 a.m. and returning about 6.00 p.m. The cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Bookings should be made now using the attached form. The form and money should be brought to the November Meeting or sent to our post office box. Non-members are welcome to come on this trip.

We plan to visit the site of the 1803 first settlement at Sorrento and the Nepean Historical Society's Museum. After lunch we will visit the Army's Officer Cadet School. This is within the restricted area between Portsea and Pt. Nepean and is not generally open to the public.

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP:

This is to be an informal function commencing at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th December. Bring something suitable for a buffet dinner or a snack as you prefer. Heating facilities are available. We have decided to have an indoor function at the Senior Citizens Centre as something different to the barbeque we have had in recent years.

150TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECTS:

We have concentrated our efforts on finishing the monument and time capsule project within the 150th year and have found it necessary to abandon the historical tour project. We have applied to the State 150th Committee to transfer the funds allocated for the tour to construction of the monument. The historical tour project will be continued at a later date and photos of historic houses in the area, taken by Doug Orford, will be available for use in an associated display.

At the time of writing, the monument construction is on schedule for the ceremony on 10th November. The concrete base has been completed and the main feature of the monument, which is an old tyre plate or disc, will be lifted into place in the next week. The final ceremony will involve lowering the sealed time capsule into place, bolting down its container lid and then concreting over the lid.

The capsule will contain mainly items relating to present day Eltham and its people and is to be opened in the year 2035, a video film made by Joh Ebeli and also details of families and organizations who have contributed to construction of the monument. It is proposed to place the items in the capsule on 5th November and any items members think could be included may be submitted up to that date.

The Society has received an excellent response from local people, firms and organizations by way of assistance with this project. Graham Beyer, who originated the project, has arranged many of the donations. He and his firm, Package Handling Equipment, have donated the time capsule itself and have carried out fabrication of sections of the monument. The design of the monument was adapted by Graham Beyer from drawings by Joh Ebeli. Charmac Industries has donated the container for the time capsule and a cast gun metal name plate for the monument. BMG Concrete has donated concrete for the base which was constructed by Caridi Construction Company. Northbourne Garden Supplies has donated materials for the paving around the monument.

Robert Becker from Eltham Apex directed construction of the paving by Society members. Terry Hutchinson has agreed to donate the use of his crane to lift the tiring disc into place.

Financial contributions have been made by the Eltham Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Eltham.

We are grateful to all who have helped, and members' support for firms who have donated their services would be an appropriate recognition.

It is planned to print "Time Capsule Certificates" which can be held by organizations or passed on to descendants by individuals. The certificates will indicate an interest in the contents of the capsule when it is opened in fifty years. Certificates will be distributed to Society members and those who have contributed to the project.

MONTMORENCY, FRANCE:

At the September Meeting, Cecile Glass strongly supported the links established with the Society D'Histoire de Montmorency et de la Region.

Former Eltham Councillor, Frank Favier, also spoke on re-establishing links with the French town which he had formed some years ago.

A Committee has now been formed to gather information on our Montmorency to send to France. At this stage members of the Committee are Blanche Shallard, Marjorie North and Opal Smith. Anyone with suitable information is invited to contact one of these members.

Sue Law,
President.
439-9520

Russell Yeoman,
Secretary,
439-9717

Opal Smith
Membership Secretary,
439-8209

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTSEA BUS TRIP SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1985

Please reserve the following seats:

Adults @ \$9.00

Children @ \$5.00

Total amount enclosed \$

Name Phone

Return this form with payment to P.O. Box 137, Eltham 3095